



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

HAYASHI, Hiromichi et al.

Group Art Unit: 1774

Serial No.: 09/892,895

Examiner: **Tamra Dicus**

Filed: **June 28, 2001**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 1586

**FOR: IN-GLAZE DECORATION RAISED DECORATED CERAMIC ARTICLES AND
TRANSCRIPTION SHEET**

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE
UNDER 37 CFR 1.312 AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH MPEP 1302.14**

MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

June 28, 2004

Sir:

Applicants received a Notice of Allowance dated **March 29, 2004**, in connection with the above-identified application. It is respectfully requested that the following comments on the Statement of Reasons for Allowance be entered in the application file:

Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Date filed **June 28, 2004**

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **09/892,895**

REMARKS

This is a Statement of Comments on Reasons for Allowance, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.312 and MPEP 1302.14.

On **March 29, 2004**, a Notice of Allowability was mailed for the above-captioned patent application.

The Reasons for Allowance section, on page 2, line 4, of the Notice of Allowability, sets forth:

“... The ceramic/glass article has a vitreous surface (glaze layer) comprising paper backing sheet with a water soluble gum/adhesive layer adhered to a design/pigment layer (coloring material) comprising metal oxides and ...”

Applicants note that if the term “ceramic/glass article” is taken to mean the state before sintering, i.e., unfired green article, this statement would be not wrong. However, the term “ceramic/glass article” would be usually understood as a “fired ceramic/glass article”.

The “paper backing sheet” will dissipate after firing, and thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner’s statement is confusing. (Applicants note the firing takes place usually at 800-1000°C in the ambient air, which results in dissipation of the paper backing sheet.)

Applicants therefore submit that these lines in the Examiner’s statement could be more correctly stated as:

--The ceramic/glass article has a vitreous surface (glaze layer) for making a pattern which is formed by a decal followed by firing. The decal comprises a paper backing sheet with a water-soluble gum/adhesive layer. The gum/adhesive layer ...--

Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Date filed **June 28, 2004**

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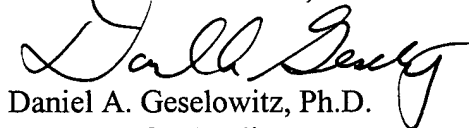
Alternatively, the term "ceramic/glass article" in the Examiner's statement could be replaced by the term –decal–.

If for any reason, the Examiner has any questions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicants' undersigned agent at the indicated telephone number to arrange for a telephone conference.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2340, along with any other additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper.

Respectfully submitted,

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DAG/xl

Atty. Docket No. **010845**

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